

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 BIB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01 PA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 PM-04 DODE-00 SP-02 L-03

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O 171610Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6818

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 0676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, US, SOPN

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN

1. REUTER ITEM DATED LINED MADRID MARCH 16 QUOTES EMBASSY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING INTER ALIA THAT "RL NO RPT NO LONGER TRANSMITS THE FLAGRANT ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA OF THE COLD WAR YEARS...IT SIMPLY BROADCASTS MUSIC AND STRAIGHT NEWS IN 18 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SOVIET UNION."

2. CONGEN CONSIDERS THE PHRASE "FLAGRANT ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA," IF QUOTED ACCURATELY, OVERDRAWS AND UNFORTUNATE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, THE STATEMENT THAT RL SIMPLY BROADCASTS MUSIC AND STRAIGHT NEWS IS INACCURATE AND COULD, IF SOVIETS SEEK TO CAPITALIZE UPON IT, COMPLICATE U.S. EFFORTS RENEW LEASE FOR PALS TRANSMITTERS.

3. ALTHOUGH RL PROGRAMMING IS NEWS-ORIENTED AND RL DOES BROADCAST SOME MUSIC, NEWS ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND FEATURES DEALING WITH CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOME CURRENT POLITICAL TOPICS CONSTITUTE THE BULK OF RL BROADCASTS.

4. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT AND BIB PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH
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PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING RL'S MISSION. GUIDANCE MIGHT

MENTION THAT RL BROADCASTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE
19 OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SEEKS
TO FILL INFORMATION GAP RESULTING FROM OF OFFICIAL CENSOR-
SHIP IN USSR.

5. EMBASSY MAY WISH REFER TO STATE 050487 FOR BACKGROUND
ON DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD RL.
PETERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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